



**United States Embassy Nairobi**  
**Public Affairs Section**  
**American Reference Center**

United Nations Avenue  
P. O. Box 606, Village Market  
00621 Nairobi, Kenya  
Tel: 254-20-3636196/7  
Fax: 254-20-3636501

---

## **Dignitaries attend 2013 Wings to Fly Scholars Program**

U.S Ambassador Robert F. Godec attended the 2013 Wings to Fly Scholars program on February with President Kibaki and other dignitaries as part of an event to appreciate the partnership of contributors to the program. This year the program, which was inspired by a shared vision and belief that the destiny of young people is not tied to the current circumstances of their parents, and that young people have the potential to break the cycle of poverty and change their destiny, has given 2,907 scholarships supported by USAID, The MasterCard Foundation, and German Cooperation as well as other supporters. President Kibaki thanked the participation of UKaid, USAID as well as several individuals and corporations who have believed in a dream and joined this partnership between The MasterCard Foundation and Equity Group Foundation.

On behalf of President Obama and the American people, Ambassador Godec applauded all the Wings To Fly 2013 scholars and expressed the importance of investment in education in young children and how it has an effect on the future of Kenyans. “That is why this year the American people, through the U.S. Agency for International Development, have increased their investment in the Wings To Fly Program by \$9 million, ensuring that an additional 1,000 students – all of whom are seated here today – will receive further education,” he said. In total, the U.S. Government is investing nearly \$27 million – or Ksh 2.3 billion – in the Wings To Fly program and supports more than 3,100 students from every district in Kenya. Ambassador Godec highlighted the program’s importance and mentioned “With a good education, you will raise strong families, create wealth in a growing economy, and lead your country forward.”

Wings to Fly scholarships are given to top performing pupils ranked in the top 5 percent in the Kenya Certificate of Primary Education (KCPE) exam and who are economically and socially marginalized, from every district where Equity Bank has a branch. Only children from needy backgrounds who would otherwise not afford to join Form 1 without financial support are considered for the scholarships. For instance: children who have lost one or both parents and have no guardian or sponsor to provide for their education; children whose parents are physically or mentally disabled and are unable to educate them; children whose parents are living with HIV/AIDS or other chronic debilitating illness and are unable to educate them. The Wings to Fly scholarship caters for school fees, books, uniforms, transport, shopping, and pocket money for the four years of secondary school.

The program goes a long way in achieving Kenya's 2030 vision agenda, which has the objective of investing in the young people of Kenya in order to improve the quality of life for all Kenyans and transform Kenya into a progressive economy.

More information on the Wings to Fly program can be found in the following link:

<http://kenya.usaid.gov/programs/education-and-youth/1282>



***U.S. Ambassador Robert F. Godec, President Mwai Kibaki, scholars, partners, and various stakeholders at the 2013 Wings to Fly scholars at Kasarani***

<http://nairobi.usembassy.gov/>